

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 9-10 and 35 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,254,246 to Tiao et al.

Claim 3 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,826 to Tanaka et al.

Claim 34 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,826 to Tanaka et al.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1 to further define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 remain pending in this application for further consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 9-10 and 35 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tiao et al. Claim 3 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of Tanaka et al. Claim 34 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of Tanaka et al. To the extent that the rejections might be applied against the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed as being based upon a reference or any combination of references that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features now clearly recited in the newly-amended claims.

With regard to independent claim 1, as newly amended, Applicants respectfully submit that Tiao et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least a recited feature of “the corner portion of said light guide is notched to receive said primary light source.”

In contrast to the present invention of newly-amended independent claim 1, Tiao et al. merely discloses an illumination uniformizing means 310 (allegedly corresponding to the claimed “light guide”), which does not have any corner portion notched to receive a light source.

In fact, as shown in FIGs. 3A and 3E 6A of Tiao et al., a light source 302 is disposed at one side of the illumination uniforming means 310, and Tiao et al. is completely silent about that the illumination uniformizing means 310 could have a corner portion notched to receive the light source 302. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that Tiao et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least the feature of “the corner portion of said light guide is notched to receive said primary light source,” as recited by newly-amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, in the present invention, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2 for example, each of the elongated lenses 5 extends substantially arcuately and therefore, the elongated lens is referred to as “substantially arc-shaped elongated lens”. Based thereon, the substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses 5 are formed in parallel to each other so as to surround the primary light source 1. Advantages of such a structure of the present invention are described in the specification, page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 8 for example. In contrast to the present invention, in the device of Tiao et al., although the lens array 330 has an arc-shape in cross section and formed in parallel to each other, it does not extend arcuately, but straight. Based thereon, the lens array 330 cannot

surround the light source 302. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above advantage of the present invention cannot be achieved by the device of Tiao et al.

In addition, the Final Office Action does not rely upon Tanaka et al. to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Tiao et al. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka et al. cannot remedy the deficiencies of Tiao et al.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn because the applied reference does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Thus, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)." Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2, 9-10 and 35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and dependent claims 3 and 34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are allowable at least because of their dependencies from independent claim 1 and the reasons set forth above.

With no other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for

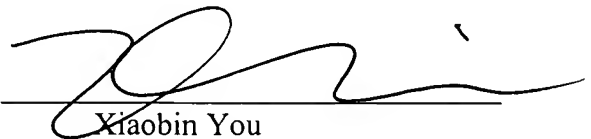
appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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